MARVEL COMICS
2ND SPECTACULAR ISSUE!
OCT '96 2
2099
WORLD OF TOMORROW
BURIED ALIVE!!
MENDOZA
DIRECT EDITION
$2.50 US $3.50 CAN

THIS IS HIGHLY IRREGULAR.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST MAKE SURE HE'S CLEAN.
WE HAVE VITALS.
GOOD. PREPARE A LEVEL THREE NANO-PARTICLE SCAN FOR TECHNO-ORGANIC GROWTH. INTERNAL PROBE.
PROTOCOL DICTATES THAT ANY PERSON FOUND IN THE CONTAMINATED ZONE--
I KNOW THE PROTOCOL. THIS IS A...SPECIAL CASE.
IN THE DRY TIME HE WAS IMPORTANT... HE WILL BE AGAIN.
RUNNING PRE-SCAN CHECK--
SOMEBODY BETTER HAVE A SHOCKIN' GOOD REASON FOR STICKING WHATEVER THEY STUCK WHERE THEY STUCK IT.
OR ITS GONNA BE MY TURN, AND THINGS ARE GONNA GET A WHOLE LOT UGLIER!
KRAKLE
PROBE ENGAGED.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE ASLEEP FOR THIS, MIG--
PUNCH IT!
EEEEYOW!
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?

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WHO'S GOING TO--
--START? MADRE DE DIOS--
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
SUBJECT EXHIBITING SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES. PROBABLE VIRAL INFECTION.
FIRST I'M BLOWN TO BITS BY PIRATES IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE--
--AND THEN I WAKE UP IN A TECHNO-RAVE VERSION OF OZ?
MUST QUARANTINE AND PROBE AT ALL COSTS.
OH, NO! YOU'RE NOT COMING ANYWHERE NEAR ME WITH THAT THING--
--AT LEAST NOT UNTIL OUR SECOND DATE.
SUPERVISOR OVERRIDE CODE MIATA. ALL STOP.

MIGUEL O'HARA HAS BEEN MANY THINGS.
WHEN THE WORLD WAS DRY, HE WAS THE GOLDEN BOY OF THE GLOBAL MEGA-CORP, ALCHEMAX.
WHEN INTRA-CORPORATE SABOTAGE LED TO THE BONDING OF HIS GENETIC CODE TO THAT OF AN ARACHNID...
...MIGUEL BECAME THE COSTUMED CURIOSITY KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN. A FREAK. A MISFIT. AND, FINALLY--
--A HERO.
THROUGH IT ALL, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAN OF REASON. SO WHEN HE LOOKS OUT ONTO THIS SPRAWLING SCIENTIFIC PARADISE--
--KNOWING THAT THE WORLD OUTSIDE HAS BEEN WASHED CLEAN BY AN ALL-CONSUMING FLOOD--
--HE IS UNDERSTANDABLY AWESTRUCK.
2099
SPIDER-MAN
BEN RAAB/JOE KELLY WRITERS
JASON ARMSTRONG PENCILER
LAMBERT/MENDOZA INKERS
BRIAN BOCCELLATO COLORS
MICHAEL HIGGINS LETTERER
POOL/FRIEDRICH EDITS
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
THEY'LL BE SPARE PARTS BEFORE THEY GET A SHOT AT A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU, MIGGY?
EVEN DOCS-IN-A-BOX SHOULDN'T BE LED ON LIKE THAT.
KLEEP
BLEEP
PFSHHH
I'M SORRY, DO YOU PREFER THAT EX-ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEES STILL CALL YOU MR. O'HARA?
XINA?!?
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE--AND WHERE DO YOU GET OFF CALLING ME MIGGY?
IN THE FLESH, MIGUEL. WELCOME TO THE FATHERLAND.

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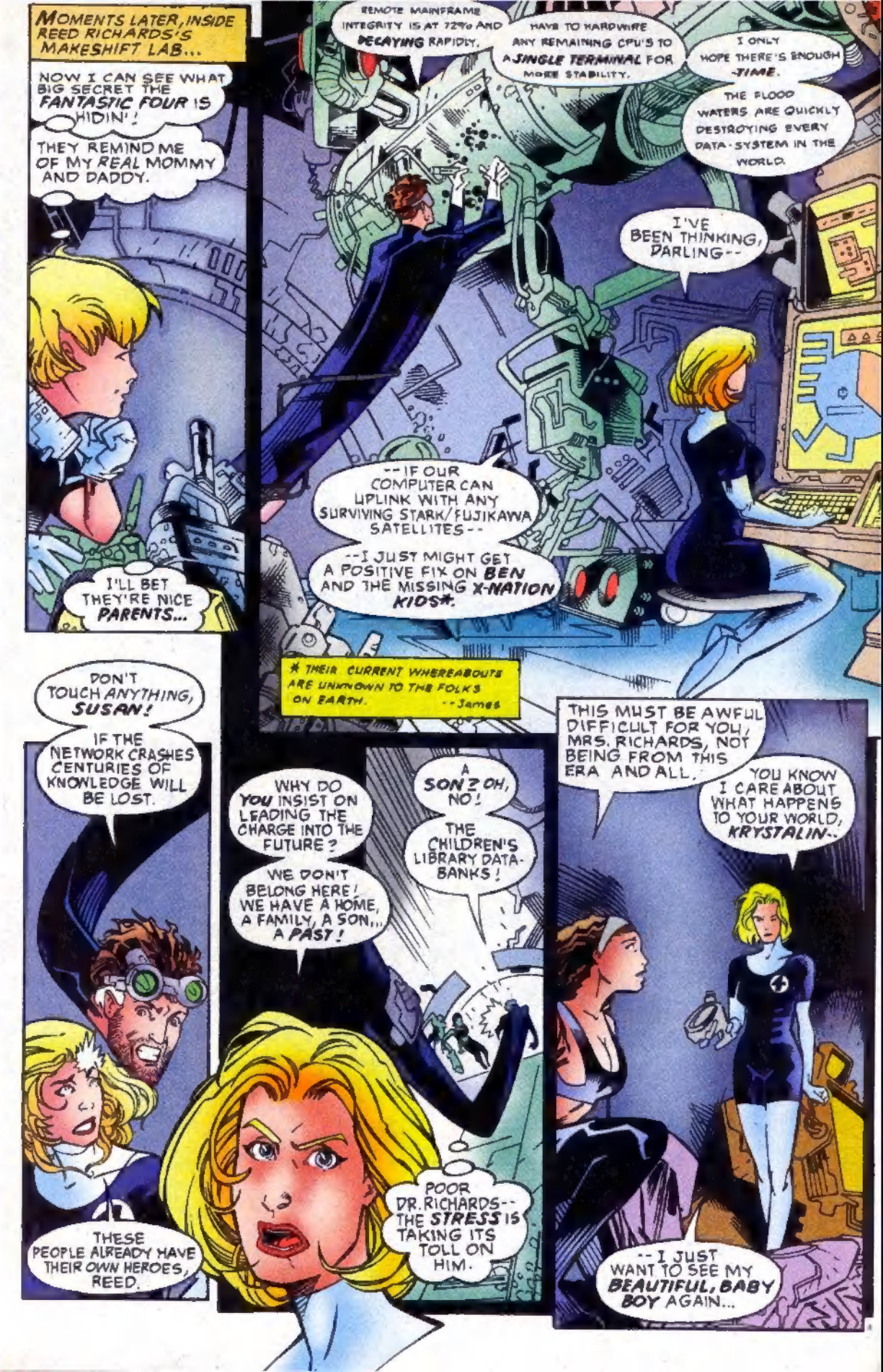
XINA?!?

I'M SORRY, DO YOU PREFER THAT EX-ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEES STILL CALL YOU MR. O'HARA?

IN THE FLESH, MIGUEL. WELCOME TO THE FATHERLAND.

MEANWHILE, AT HUMANITY'S "LAST REFUGE", AN EXPERIMENT OF ANOTHER SORT IS BEING PERFORMED...
RASSUM FRASSUM... NEURO-CYBER CIRCUITRY... VR BODYSUITS?
I AIN'T NO TECHNO-GEEK, BUUUUT--
--THAT GUY'S A FEW GIGS SHORT OF A HARDDRIVE!
WOW! IT'S THE X-MEN!
I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE DOIN'!
DR. RICHARDS IS UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE RIGHT NOW, METALHEAD.
WE ALL HAVE TO PITCH IN ANY WAY WE CAN.
YEAH, AND MUTANTS ALWAYS GET STUCK WITH THE SCUT WORK!
YOU ASK ME--
--WE SHOULD BE USING OUR POWERS TO CONTROL THIS SOCIETY--
--NOT CODDLE IT!
OBOY! THEY DIDN'T SEE ME--
--I'M GONNA GET INSIDE.
RIGHT, XI'AN?


MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE REED RICHARDS'S MAKESHIFT LAB...
NOW I CAN SEE WHAT BIG SECRET THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS HIDIN'!
THEY REMIND ME OF MY REAL MOMMY AND DADDY.
I'LL BET THEY'RE NICE PARENTS...
REMOTE MAINFRAME INTEGRITY IS AT 72% AND DECAYING RAPIDLY.
HAVE TO HARDWIRE ANY REMAINING CPU'S TO A SINGLE TERMINAL FOR MORE STABILITY.
I ONLY HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH TIME.
THE FLOOD WATERS ARE QUICKLY DESTROYING EVERY DATA-SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.
I'VE BEEN THINKING, DARLING--
--IF OUR COMPUTER CAN UPLINK WITH ANY SURVIVING STARK/FUJIKAWA SATELLITES--
--I JUST MIGHT GET A POSITIVE FIX ON BEN AND THE MISSING X-NATION KIDS*.
* THEIR CURRENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN TO THE FOLKS ON EARTH. --James
DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING, SUSAN!
IF THE NETWORK CRASHES CENTURIES OF KNOWLEDGE WILL BE LOST.
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON LEADING THE CHARGE INTO THE FUTURE?
WE DON'T BELONG HERE! WE HAVE A HOME, A FAMILY, A SON... A PAST!
A SON? OH, NO!
THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY DATA-BANKS!
THESE PEOPLE ALREADY HAVE THEIR OWN HEROES, REED.
POOR DR. RICHARDS-- THE STRESS IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON HIM.
THIS MUST BE AWFUL DIFFICULT FOR YOU, MRS. RICHARDS, NOT BEING FROM THIS ERA AND ALL.
YOU KNOW I CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR WORLD, KRYSTALIN...
--I JUST WANT TO SEE MY BEAUTIFUL, BABY BOY AGAIN...

SATELLITE UPLINK COMPLETE! WELCOME TO STARK/FUJIKAWA HEADQUARTERS!
Hmmm... THIS COULD PROVE USEFUL.
I'M DETECTING SOME HIGH ENERGY READINGS EMANATING FROM WITHIN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WAS ONCE YOUR HOME.
GIVES ME A CHILL KNOWING THAT SLEAZY OL' STARK/FUJI PERVERTED A PLACE INTENDED FOR SUCH GOOD.
BRRR!
THEN WHY DON'TCHA LET OL' JOHNNY STORM LIGHT YOUR FIRE, BABE?!?
THE HUMAN TORCH!
IN THE FLESH--OR SHOULD I SAY, "IN THE FLAME"?
ADMIT IT, KRYS--I'M MAKIN' YA HOT UNDER THE COLLAR, RIGHT?
SORRY, HOTPANTS--YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO SETTLE FOR THE COLD SHOULDER--
--FOR NOW...
ONCE YOUR HORMONES HAVE STOPPED RAGING, LITTLE BROTHER--
--I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
NEGATIV
THE NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL--
--IT'S OPEN AGAIN!
THAT'S GREAT, SIS!!! NOW WE CAN FINALLY GO--
HOME.

ELSEWHERE, BENEATH THE EARTH...
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN A SHIP LIKE THIS!
THIS VESSEL'S THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD, CHALK-FACE--
--BUT IT MIGHT BE CIVILIZATION'S TICKET INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.
ARE YOU SO DRIVEN TO RE-BUILD YOUR PRECIOUS "CIVILIZATION," HUMAN--
--THAT YOU WOULD HASTILY VENTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN?
MY JOB'S TO MAKE THIS PLACE INHABITABLE FOR US "NORMAL" PEOPLE... FREAK.
IF THAT SPACESHIP'S SALVAGEABLE--I'M TAKING IT.
NOW, GET YOUR STINKIN' CLAWS OFF ME, YOU DIRTY LIZARD--
--OR YOUR BRAIN GETS A NEW VENTILATION SYSTEM.
OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T, MUTIE.
ALL THE E.T.'S TOOK OFF YEARS AGO.
THEN HOW THE SHOCK DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS, HODGE?
THANKS FOR THE HAND, MR. WINN.
--YOU STUDLY HUNK, YOU.
MY PLEASURE, WILLOW. BETTER STEP CAUTIOUSLY...
...THIS COULD BE TROUBLE.
DID HE JUST BLUFF YOU, BLOODHAWK?
A BLUFF MUST CARRY A THREAT...

INSIDE...
HOW'S IT LOOKIN', JADE?
I'M READING SOMETHING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR--
--BUT I CAN'T FIND A LOCKING MECHANISM.
DON'T SWEAT IT, SWEETIE.
AIN'T A LOCK BEEN BUILT THAT CAN KEEP OUT LA LUNATICA!
KRR
UUNCH
EEWUUUGGHH!
SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING DIED IN HERE!
VID THIS, GUYS. LUNA WAS RIGHT--
WHAT THE SHOCK HAPPENED?
Hmm... NO EXTERNAL HULL BREACH... INTERNAL CONTROL PANELS CHARRED...
BEST GUESS, NOSTROMO?
SABOTAGE.
--SOMETHING DID DIE IN HERE...

JUDGING BY THIS HARDWARE--
--THAT GUY MUST'VE BEEN LIGHT YEARS AHEAD OF US!
ACTUALLY, THIS TECHNOLOGY'S QUITE PRIMITIVE...
"PRIMITIVE"? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
SIMPLE. THE METALLURGICAL COMPOSITION OF THIS BULKHEAD IS MARTIAN IN ORIGIN.
SO?
ACCORDING TO SURVEYS DONE BY ALCHEMAX'S ARES PROJECT--
--MARS HAS BEEN DEVOID OF ANY INTELLIGENT LIFE FOR MILLENNIA.
CHECK OUT THE BIG BRAIN ON MR. WINN!
TEK
YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT LEAVING THIS SHIP EMPTY-HANDED.
NO, HODGE-- DON'T TOUCH THAT!
SLAM
THE DOORS ARE CLOSING! WE'RE TRAPPED!!
BOOOOM
THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!
BOOOM BOOOM
MORE EXPLOSIONS.
AND THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER...

THE SAVAGE LAND.
THREE MILES DOWN.
THIS IS THE GIRL CALLED STRANGE.
SHE'S GOT THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON HER SHOULDERS--
--AND IN HER MOUTH.
HER NOSE.
HER LUNGS.
AS THE ROILING EARTH SMOTHERS HER BODY, HER MIND RACES...
...STRINGING TOGETHER ANCIENT WORDS...
...SEARCHING FOR AN ARCANE COMBINATION.
BRATA
CHOOM
BINGO.
THERE ARE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO BEING THE SORCERESS SUPREME--
--ASSUMING SHE LIVES LONG ENOUGH TO ENJOY THEM.
THAK

FIRST I GET DUMPED ON BY TWENTY STORIES OF GRANITE HANDSHAKE--
--THEN I WAKE UP TO SLIMY, UNINVITED GROPINGS--
--AND I THINK I GOT A RUN IN MY NEW TIGHTS.
FWAP
FAROOSH
THIS DAY HAS FLARKIN' SUCKED!
NO HARM WAS MEANT! I WAS TRYING TO HELP... TO PROTECT!
NSSSSHH! THE LIGHT! MY EYES!
NEWS FLASH, SKIN-SO-SOFT, I'M PLENTY CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF MYSELF!
AH! WHY, THEN, DID YOU BLAST YOURSELF DEEPER INTO THE EARTH--AH!-- INSTEAD OF ABOVE IT?
YOUR POINT BEING?
I CAN HELP YOU MAKE BETTER MAGIC! I KNOW THINGS--
PEEP THIS, WART-BOY, I'M THE SORCERESS SUPREME.
THE MACK MAGICIAN.
O.G. OF DA OCCULT.
NUMBER ONE WITH A MAGIC BULLET. I DON'T NEED HELP.

--'CAUSE NOW I'M ON TO YOU, AND I'M READY TO ROCK!
SUCH UNFOCUSED POWER! IS AMUSING CASTLING!
KOOM
YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE DOCTOR DRUID?
YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE ONCE, CHUMP. DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD.
OKAY, I GOT IT! Whuff!
NOW WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO STOP THRASHING ME SO I CAN FRY YOUR FACE OFF?
SUCH UNFOCUSED POWER! COULD SHE THE ONE?
Whoa, UNCOOL FLASHBACK--

KEEP IT REAL, GIRL. GET BACK TO BASICS AND FADE THIS LOSER.
PLEASE TRY! THERE MAY BE AN OBSTACLE OR TWO IN YOUR WAY--
A CHARMING COLLOQUIALISM, [illegible] IT TO YOU?
DON'T YOU DARE SPEAK ABOUT HIM!!!
--NOTHING THE DISCIPLE OF STRANGE CAN'T HANDLE, I'M SURE.
AIN'T NO THING BUT A CHICKEN WING.
BRAKASH
IMPRESSIVE.
YOU WILL NEED TO BE BETTER.
LET'S DANCE, MR. MYSTERY DATE.
YOU LEAD AND I'LL FOLLOW--
--THEN I'LL TANGO ALL OVER YOUR SHOCKIN' HEAD.
YES... YES, SHE WILL BE THE ONE.
MISTRESS, WAIT! ALLOW UMI TO HELP.
SURE. STAY OUT OF THE WAY--
--AND MAYBE I'LL LET YOU CLEAN UP THE BODIES.

MARS.
THE PROJECT: ARES COLONIAL SETTLEMENT.
A SELECT FEW OF CORPORATE AMERICA'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST--
--HAND-PICKED BY ALCHEMAX'S FORMER CEO, TYLER STONE HIMSELF--
--ARE THE FIRST HUMAN SETTLERS HERE.
I'M TELLIN' YA--WE AIN'T NO ALIENS!!!
A PAINFUL FACT THAT THE RECENTLY-ARRIVED GROUP OF KIDS CALLED X-NATION IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER FIRSTHAND...
A LIKELY STORY.
FLAP THOSE GUMS AGAIN, MONSTER...
... AND YOU'RE GONNA BE TALKIN' OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT THING YOU CALL A HEAD!
THAT DEPENDS ON WHICH SIDE OF THE RIFLE YOU'RE ON.
PLEASE-- WE COME IN PEACE!

LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE THAT THEY WOULD ALSO BE THE LAST.
FOR ONCE THE ABDUCTIONS BEGAN AND COLONISTS' CORPSES BEGAN LITTERING THEIR DOORSTEPS...
...IT BECAME PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT THEIR BRAVE NEW WORLD WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY...
...AND THAT SQUATTERS WERE NOT AT ALL WELCOME.
ARES
WANT ME TO ICE 'EM, PADRE?
HEY, THE CAPTAIN TOLD YOU TO ZIP IT!
C'MON, PIKE-- LET ME POP THIS ONE!
SHE AIN'T BLUFFIN', FATHER JENNIFER.
EASY, SMITH--
--VIOLENCE IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM, NOW IS IT?
YOU GOTTA BELIEVE US--WE ARE AS HUMAN AS ANY OF YOU!
A BUNCH OF MUTANTS, THAT IS...
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, KID--
--WE DON'T KNOW WHO'S HUMAN, ANY-MORE.
DO WE, PIKE?

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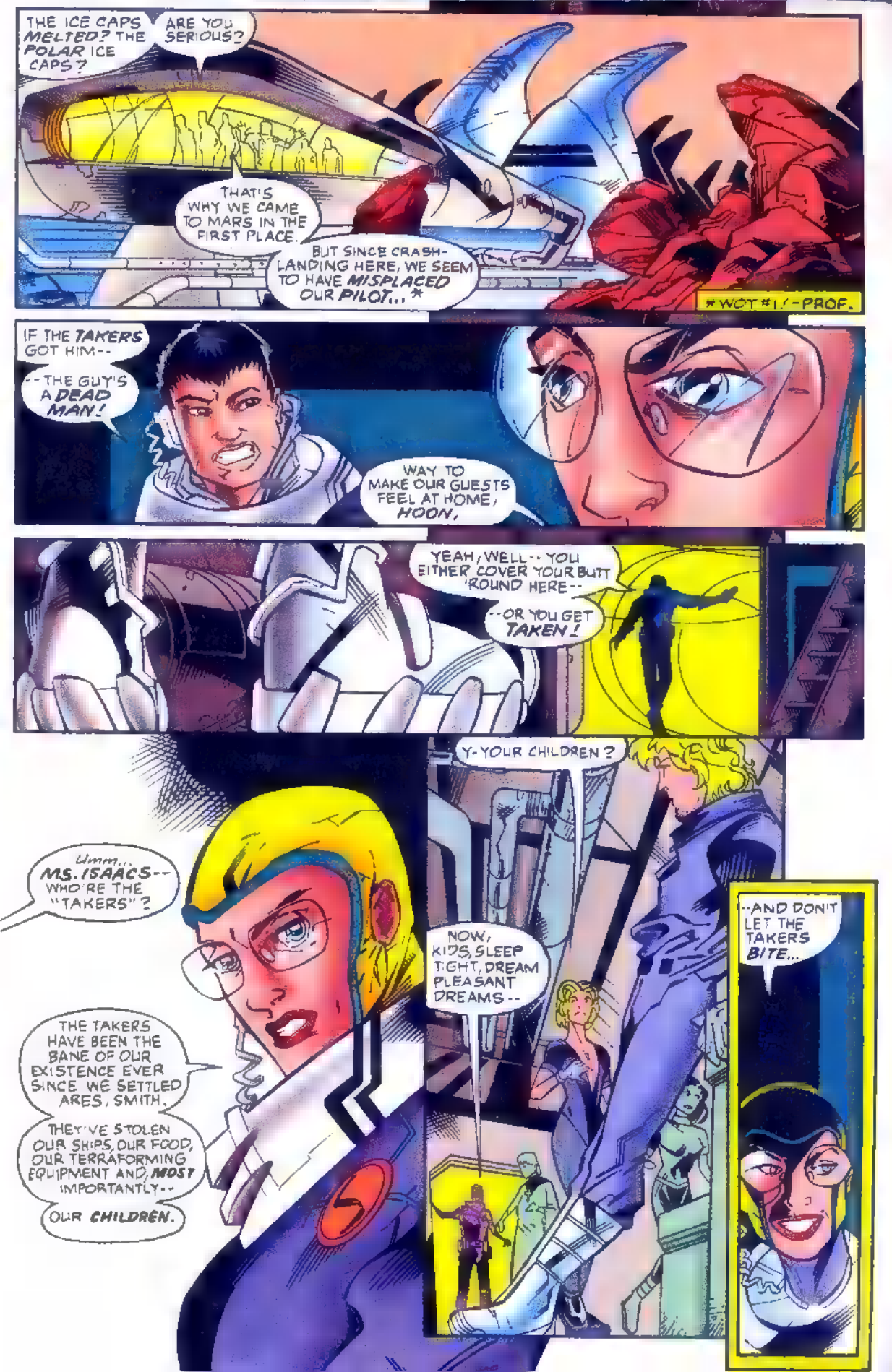
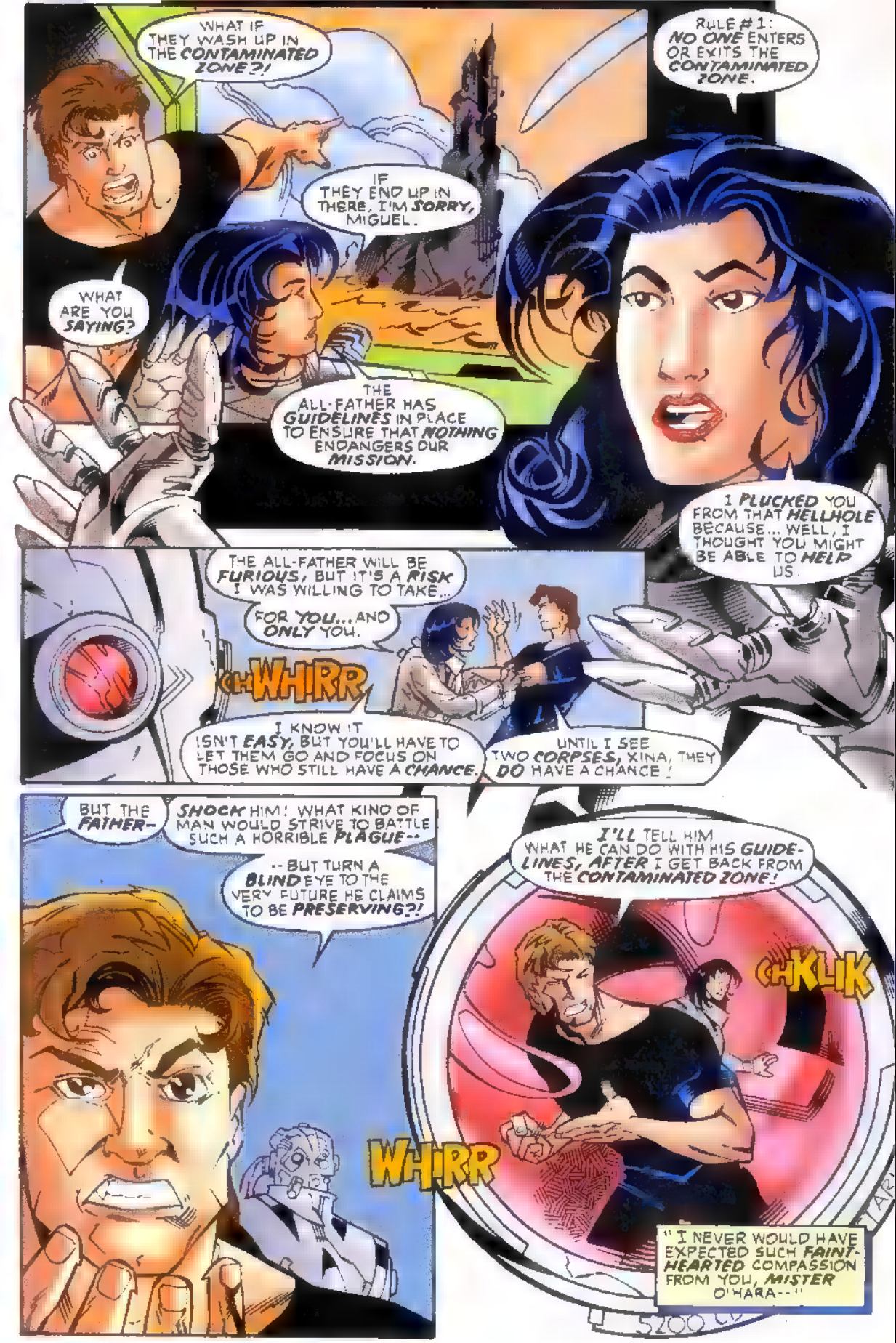

THE ICE CAPS MELTED? THE POLAR ICE CAPS?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
THAT'S WHY WE CAME TO MARS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT SINCE CRASH-LANDING HERE, WE SEEM TO HAVE MISPLACED OUR PILOT... *
* WOT #1 - PROF.
IF THE TAKERS GOT HIM--
--THE GUY'S A DEAD MAN!
WAY TO MAKE OUR GUESTS FEEL AT HOME, HOON,
YEAH, WELL-- YOU EITHER COVER YOUR BUTT 'ROUND HERE--
--OR YOU GET TAKEN!
Y-YOUR CHILDREN?
Umm... MS. ISAACS-- WHO'RE THE "TAKERS"?
NOW, KIDS, SLEEP TIGHT, DREAM PLEASANT DREAMS--
--AND DON'T LET THE TAKERS BITE...
THE TAKERS HAVE BEEN THE BANE OF OUR EXISTENCE EVER SINCE WE SETTLED ARES, SMITH.
THEY'VE STOLEN OUR SHIPS, OUR FOOD, OUR TERRAFORMING EQUIPMENT AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY--
OUR CHILDREN.

OFF THE COAST OF SUNKEN ITALY IN THE HOLD OF A BONA FIDE PIRATE SHIP...
KANG
Whouff!
HOPE THAT'S NOT ALL THE PLAYTIME WE GET OUTTA YOU, UPREAR..
AUNT EM.. IZZAT YOU?
I'M GONNA RIP OFF YOUR HEADS AND SHOVE THEM UP YOUR..
AS IF, LITTLE PUP.
THE WILD BOYZ ENJOY A RATHER BRUTAL "FAMILY REUNION".
THE SADISTIC TRANSMORPH WARBIRD AND THE MONO-SYLLABIC BRUTE, TRASH..
ONLY THING YOU'RE GONNA DO--
..IS BLEED.
..THEIR GAMMA-CHARGED LEADER, DORIAN AND THE "SENSITIVE ONE," SHIV...
COPIOUSLY.
RRRAUUGHH!!
CHILL! WULFF! WAIT TILL I CAN GET YOUR BACK--
...WITH THEIR FORMER TEAMMATE, WULFF, THE FERAL TEEN, AND HIS TWO-TON PAL, UPROAR.
DOG [redacted]Y MAY HAVE BE[redacted] HARD WHEN HE RAN WITH US IN THE DRY TIME--
SCH
WOK
--BUT THE-NEW AND-IMPROVED IS ONLY WULFF-LITE!
NO!

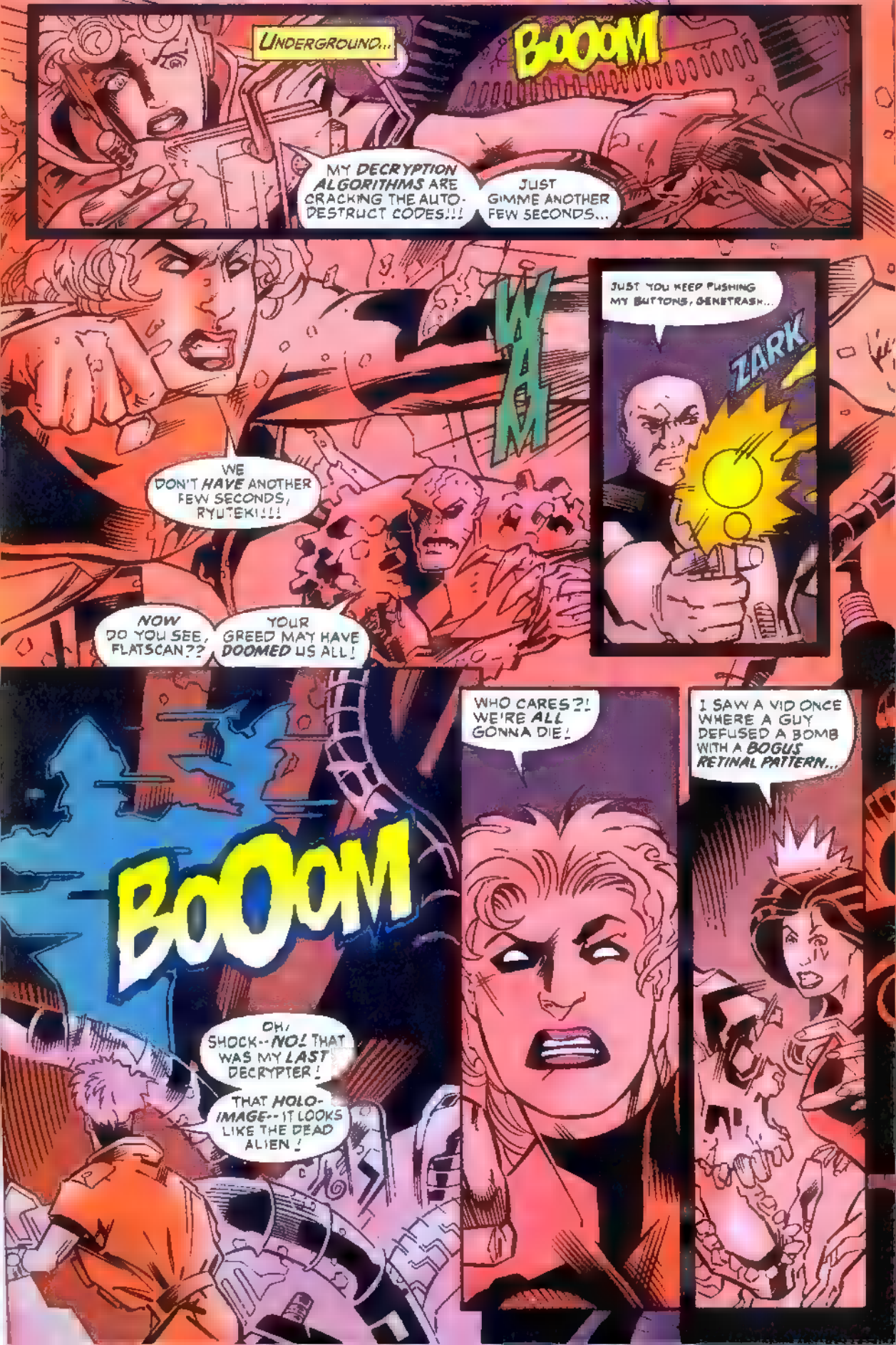
WHOO! WHO ORDERED AN EXTRA LARGE PUNK, HOLD THE BRAINS?
STAND STILL SO I CAN PUT A HURT ON YOU!
KLONK THUNK
YOU MEAN...LIKE SO?
PWOPP
OR DO YOU MEAN LIKE SO? TAKE YOUR PICK.
DID ALL WE COULD...
AT LEAST WE GO OUT..
...AS PARTNERS...
PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW.
'SPECIALLY PARTING YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR BODY!
STOP!

BLINK OUT OF HERE, FIONA! THIS IS WILD BOYZ BUSINESS!
MUTE IT, DORIAN!
I DON'T GIVE A SHOCKIN' BLANKETY-BLANK ABOUT YOUR LITTLE CLUB, BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO STEP ON THE BIG BOSS'S TOES, BIG TIME--
--AND I DON'T THINK ANY OF YOU PRE-PUBERTS WANT THAT KIND OF HEAT, DIG?
HE-L-L-L-O, NURSE! AT LEAST MY HORMONES AIN'T BROKE YET.
VID THIS, SWEETNESS. THE BB WOULD GIVE THE GO STAMP TO THIS LITTLE PARTY IN A HEARTBEAT.
NOT! EVERY FISH SWIMS IN THE BOWL! END OF STORY. YOU KNOW HOW THE BOSS IS ABOUT RULES.
I NEVER THOUGHT THE BOSS'S LAW APPLIED TO TURN-COAT TRAITORS--
WULFF?!?
HE LOOKED A LOT BETTER LAST TIME YOU SCANNED HIM, FI--
BIGGER, TOO.
SHE'S BIG TIME UPSET.
I THINK THE BOSS WOULD AGREE THAT THE GAUNTLET IS ESPECIALLY RIGHTEOUS FOR TRAITORS!
Uh... GAUNTLET?
SEPARATE THEM AND DUMP 'EM IN THE HOLE.!

THE FATHERLAND..
...WHERE A CADRE OF EARTH'S FINEST MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MINDS WORK TIRELESSLY TOWARDS ONE COMMON GOAL.
AND THE LAB RUNS TWENTY-FOUR/SEVEN AT FULL STEAM.
I DON'T GET IT, XINA. THE WORLD COMES TO AN END, AND WHILE THE REST OF HUMANITY SQUATS IN THE SAVAGE LAND...
...YOU JUST TRIP AND FALL INTO ALL THIS?
IT WAS NO ACCIDENT, MIGGY. I WAS SUMMONED HERE BY THE ALL-FATHER..
..TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM THE WORST MEDICAL THREAT OF ALL TIME.
IT'S A VIRUS THAT TURNS REGULAR, HEALTHY CELLS INTO LIVING CIRCUITRY!
I'VE DONE WORK WITH TECHNO-ORGANICS BEFORE, BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I CAME LOOKING FOR! WE FOUND A GUY BACK AT LAST REFUGE COVERED IN THE STUFF! SOME KIDS--
OH, SHOCK! WULFF AND UPROAR! I'VE BEEN SO OVERWHELMED I TOTALLY FORGOT! DID ANYONE ELSE WASH UP ON SHORE?
NO, BUT THERE ARE PATROLS ON CONSTANT WATCH.
IF THEY'RE ANYWHERE NEAR THE COASTLINE WE'LL FIND THEM. ALIVE OR DEAD...


WHAT IF THEY WASH UP IN THE CONTAMINATED ZONE?!
RULE #1: NO ONE ENTERS OR EXITS THE CONTAMINATED ZONE.
IF THEY END UP IN THERE, I'M SORRY, MIGUEL.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THE ALL-FATHER HAS GUIDELINES IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT NOTHING ENDANGERS OUR MISSION.
I PLUCKED YOU FROM THAT HELLHOLE BECAUSE... WELL, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US.
THE ALL-FATHER WILL BE FURIOUS, BUT IT'S A RISK I WAS WILLING TO TAKE...
FOR YOU... AND ONLY YOU.
CHWHIRR
I KNOW IT ISN'T EASY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LET THEM GO AND FOCUS ON THOSE WHO STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
UNTIL I SEE TWO CORPSES, XINA, THEY DO HAVE A CHANCE!
BUT THE FATHER--
SHOCK HIM! WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD STRIVE TO BATTLE SUCH A HORRIBLE PLAGUE--
--BUT TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE VERY FUTURE HE CLAIMS TO BE PRESERVING?!
I'LL TELL HIM WHAT HE CAN DO WITH HIS GUIDELINES, AFTER I GET BACK FROM THE CONTAMINATED ZONE!
CHKLIK
WHIRR
"I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED SUCH FAINT-HEARTED COMPASSION FROM YOU, MISTER O'HARA--"

PERHAPS YOU WILL NOT PROVE TO BE THE ALLY I HAD HOPED FOR--
--WHEN I ALLOWED XINA TO DELIVER YOU FROM THE COLD GRIP OF THE SURF.
SOMEONE COMES.
CLICK
FSCHH
THERE ARE FIFTEEN DIFFERENT WAYS I COULD ANNIHILATE YOU WHERE YOU STAND FOR ENTERING MY STUDY UNINVITED.
SPARE ME YOUR BAROQUE POSTURING, OH GREAT FATHER.
I DISARMED YOUR PRIMITIVE SECURITY WITH BARELY A THOUGHT. YOU HAVE NO SECRETS FROM ME--
EXCEPT THE LOCATION OF YOUR PRECIOUS SCOUT--
--OR HAVE YOU USED YOUR... VAST INFLUENCE ON THIS PLANET TO FIND HIM YOURSELF, EMISSARY?
DO NOT MISTAKE PATIENCE FOR WEAKNESS, HUMAN!
YOU AND YOUR CHERISHED FATHERLAND EXIST BECAUSE I DEEM IT [redacted] TO THE RE-BIRTH! THE SCOUT IS ALL THAT MATTERS--
--AND YOU WILL DELIVER HIM TO US, OR YOUR BELOVED KINSMEN WILL ENJOY UNDREAMED SUFFERING FOR [redacted]LENNIA...
I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE FATHERLAND SURVIVES YOUR REIGN.
KKR'CH
ON THAT YOU HAVE MY WORD.

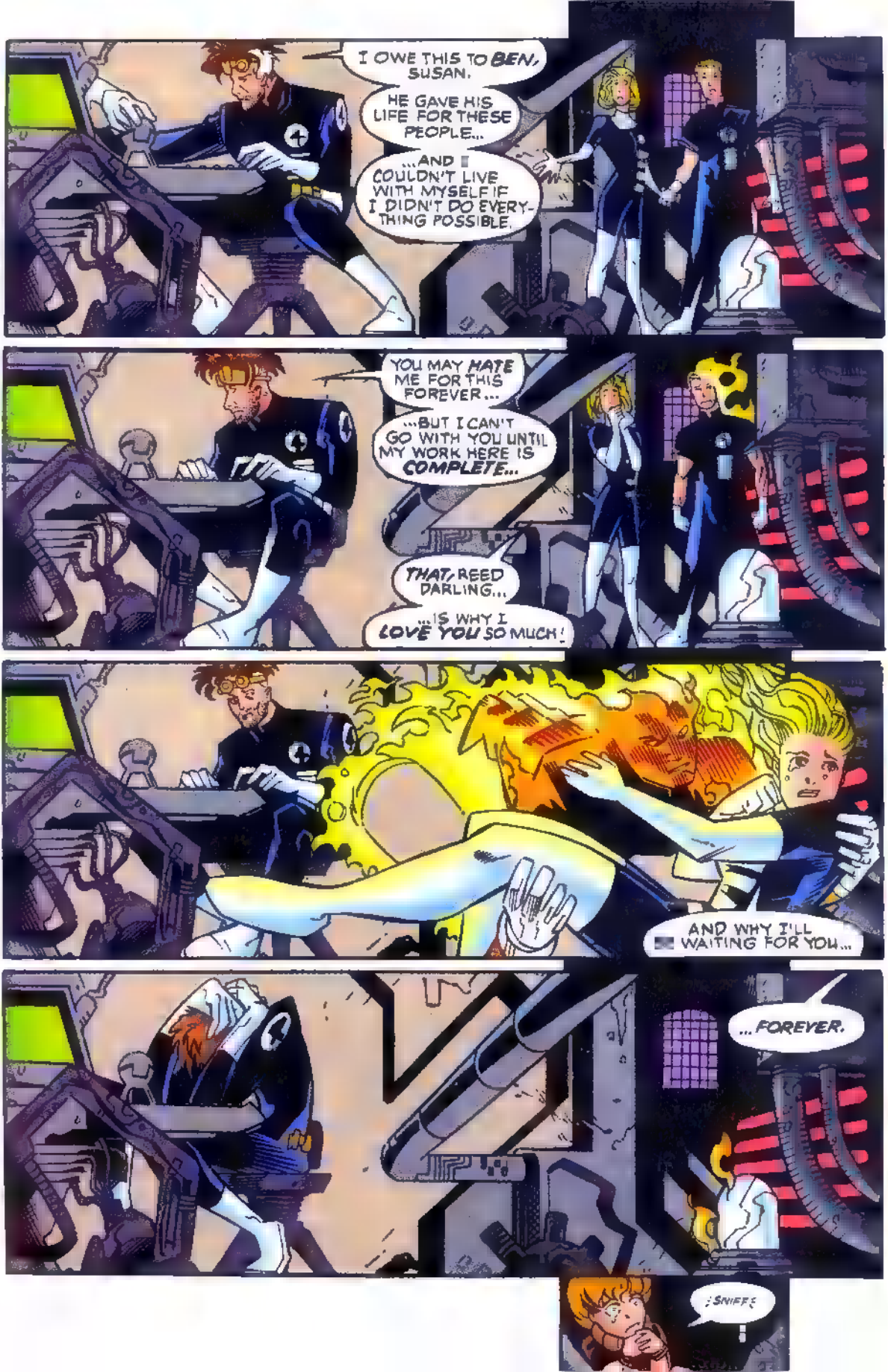

UNDERGROUND...
BOOOM
MY DECRYPTION ALGORITHMS ARE CRACKING THE AUTO-DESTRUCT CODES!!!
JUST GIMME ANOTHER FEW SECONDS...
WAM
WE DON'T HAVE ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, RYUTEK!!!!
NOW DO YOU SEE, FLATSCAN??
YOUR GREED MAY HAVE DOOMED US ALL!
JUST YOU KEEP PUSHING MY BUTTONS, GENETRASH...
ZARK
BOOOM
OH, SHOCK--NO! THAT WAS MY LAST DECRYPTER!
THAT HOLO-IMAGE--IT LOOKS LIKE THE DEAD ALIEN!
WHO CARES?! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!
I SAW A VID ONCE WHERE A GUY DEFUSED A BOMB WITH A BOGUS RETINAL PATTERN...

WOULD YOU QUIT PLAYING AROUND AND MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL?
USING YOUR MUTIE POWER TO MORPH INTO A DEAD ALIEN AIN'T GONNA DO JACK TO STOP THOSE BOMBS!
BA
BOOM
--I DOUBT IT COULD HURT!
AT THIS POINT, HODGE--
AND AS WILLOW REACHES OUT TO THE ANCIENT VISITOR PSYCHOMETRICALLY...
AAIIEEE!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WE'VE GOT TO HELP HER!
NO, NOSTROMO--
--IT'S NOT FOR US TO INTERFERE.
NOT YET...

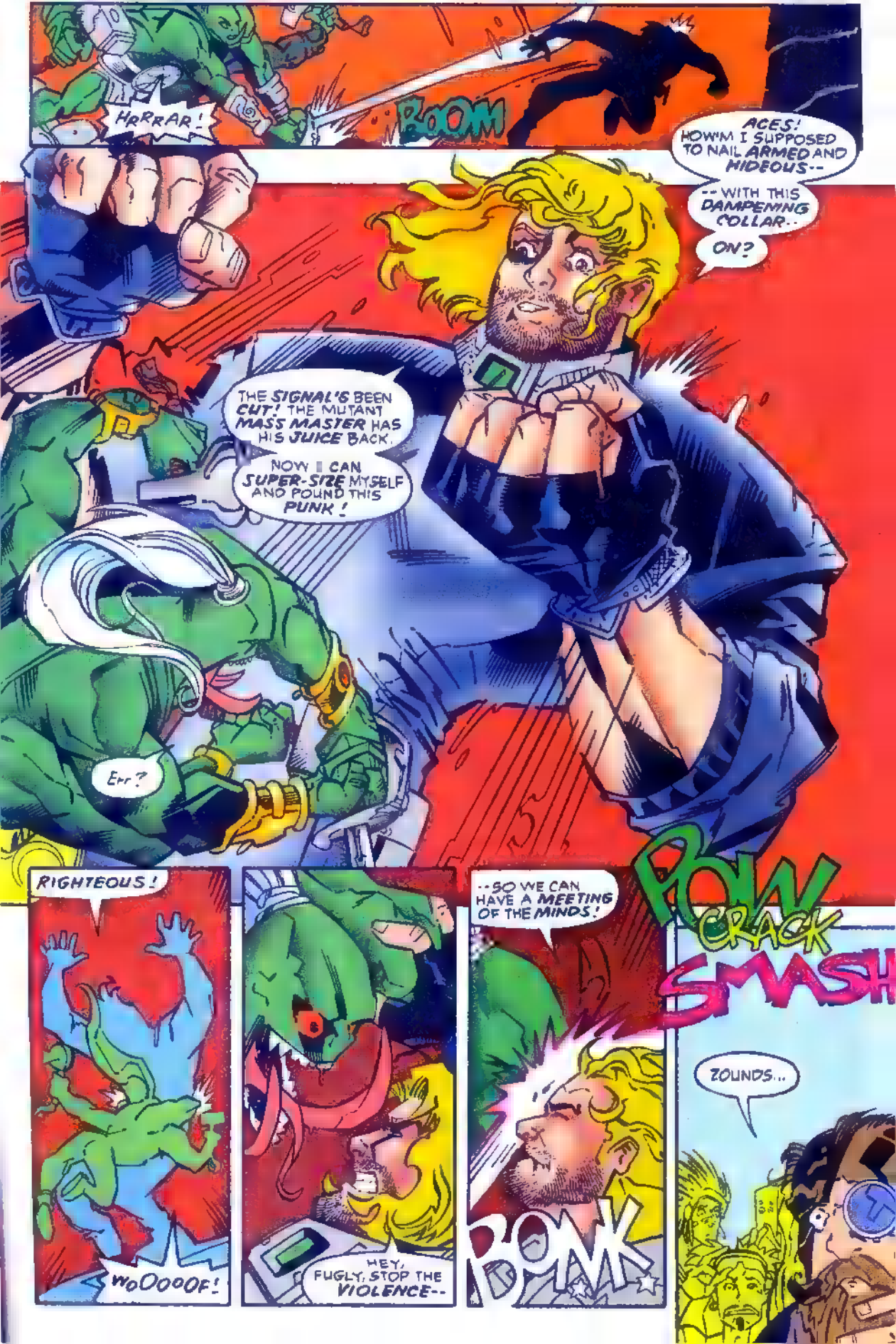
WILLOW--NOOO!
THE BLINDING LIGHT FADES...
...AND WHERE THE MUTANT GIRL WILLOW ONCE STOOD...
IT'S COOL, NOS, IT'S ME--WILLOW! THE TRANSFORMATION WORKED!
HOPE THE AUTO-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE RECOGNIZES THIS FORM!
BOOM
C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!
RECOGNIZE ME!
<AUTO-DESTRUCT SYSTEM ABORTED.>
THE EXPLOSIONS--THEY'VE STOPPED!
YEAH--BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG...
I CAN'T MORPH BACK TO MY OWN BODY!

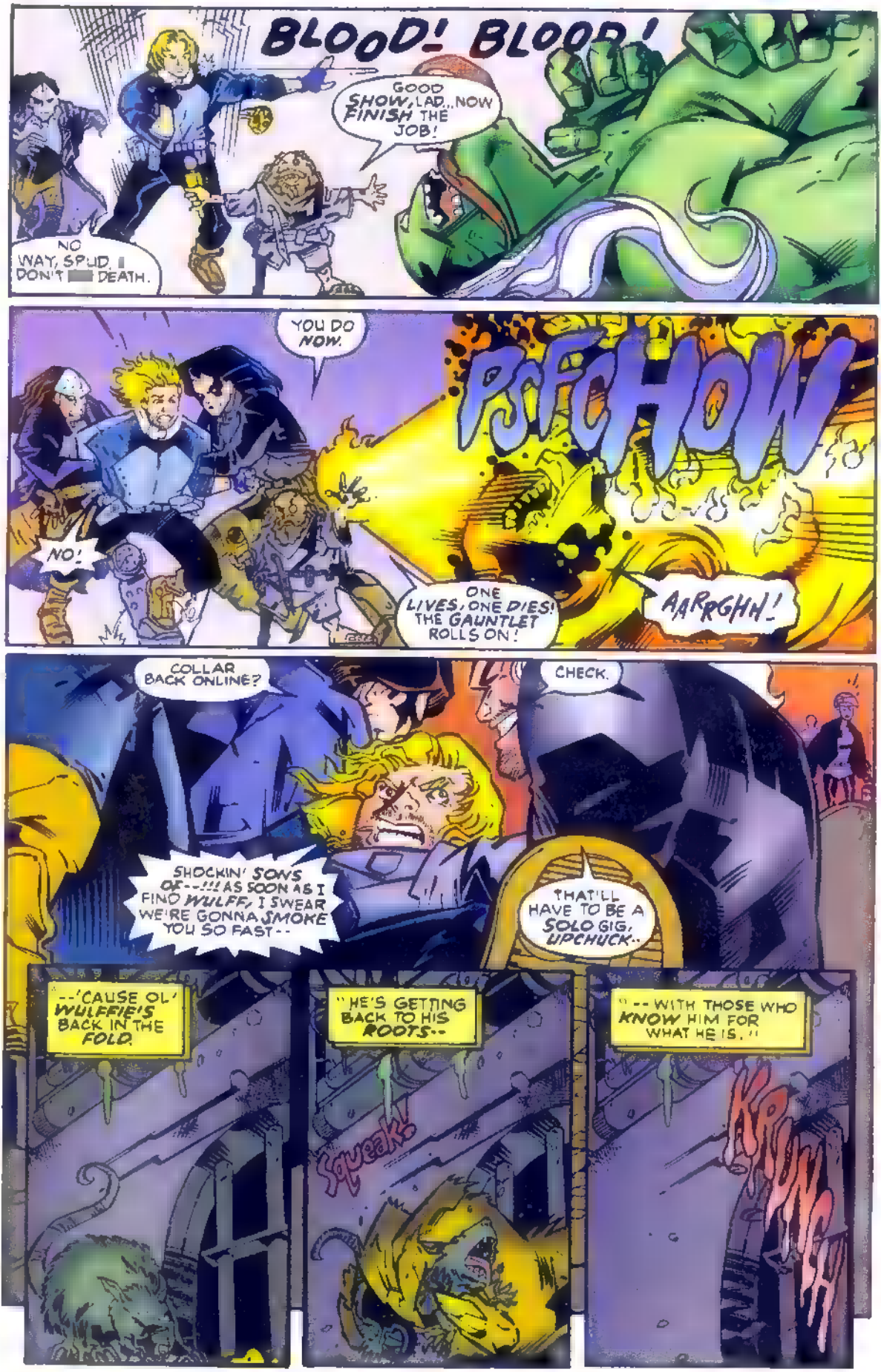
TOPSIDE...
THINK Y'COULD STEP THINGS UP HERE, DOC?
THIS THING'S... Uhff-- HEAVY!
IS IT SO MUCH FOR YOU TO PLEASE HOLD THAT STEADY FOR A FEW SECONDS, BEN?!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, OLD FRIEND--
--AND ALL REMAINING COMPUTERS WILL BE STABILIZED.
"BEN"??? OLD FRIEND???
Uhh... MY NAME'S EDDIE, DOC.
YES. INDEED, Mm Hmmmm...
...SYSTEMS ARE LINKING-- THAT'S GOOD.
I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT, SHAKTI.
THAT PSI-BOOSTER BELONGS TO US!
THERE IS NO MORE "US" AND "THEM," XI'AN--
--MUTANTS AND HUMANS MUST START GETTING ALONG IF WE'RE TO SURVIVE.
THUD
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T SEEM YOURSELF LATELY.
YEAH, WELL-- XI'AN AIN'T THE ONLY ONE...

THIS BIO-NEURAL CIRCUITRY PACK HAS BEEN IMBUED WITH A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF CEREBRA'S PSIONIC ENERGY.
IT SHOULD PROVIDE THE MAINFRAME WITH SUFFICIENT POWER TO RUN FOR AT LEAST AS LONG AS ANY HUMAN'S LIFESPAN--
--PERHAPS EVEN LONGER!
SUE AND JOHNNY ARE GOING TO BE SO--
--EXCITED...
WHAT--?? YOU'VE RE-ACTIVATED THE NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL?!?
ATIVE ZONE OPEN
WE'RE GOING HOME, REED!
BUT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THESE PEOPLE--
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SISTER AND MY NEPHEW?
THAT PORTAL'S OUR ONLY ROUTE HOME.
WE INTEND TO BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT WHEN IT CLOSES--
--WITH OR WITHOUT YOU!
ARE YOU THREATENING ME, JOHNNY?!
STOP IT!
REED, I NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW--
WHOOM
--WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU? OUR FAMILY'S PAST--
--OR THIS WORLD'S FUTURE?

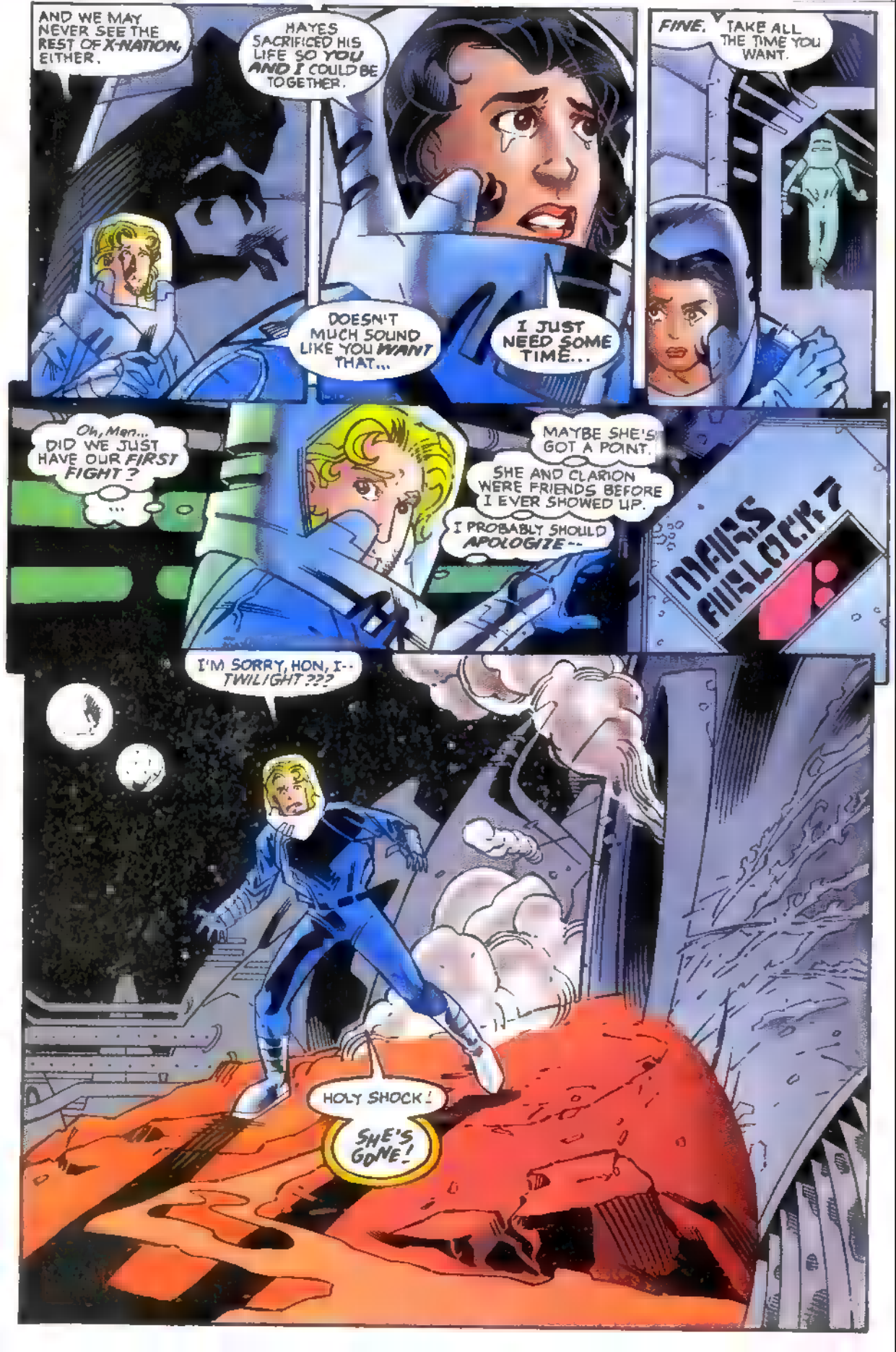

I OWE THIS TO BEN, SUSAN.
HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THESE PEOPLE...
...AND I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I DIDN'T DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE.
YOU MAY HATE ME FOR THIS FOREVER...
...BUT I CAN'T GO WITH YOU UNTIL MY WORK HERE IS COMPLETE...
THAT, REED DARLING...
...IS WHY I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
AND WHY I'LL WAITING FOR YOU...
...FOREVER.
;SNIFF;

BARNACLE BILL'S...
BLOOD! BLOOD! BLOOD!
PLEASE SKOFF! NO MORE... WHAT DO YOU SAY YOU CALL IT WHEN SKAFF DRAW?
IMAGINE... A PIRATE WITH MY SKOFF BRAINS...
...MY TALENTS...
...MY FASHION SENSE?!?
SPLITCH
OOooh!
I'M GONNA BE SICK...
LAME.
HALLOWEEN JACK, WE HARDLY KNEW YE... ANYWAY!
UP NEXT... A BULKY BLOWFISH WHO'S SURE TO BE A HOOT.
UPROAR THE UNWASHED!
YOU'RE ON, CHUM.
DO US A FAVOR AND DIE SLOW!
LET THE GAUNTLET BEGIN!!!

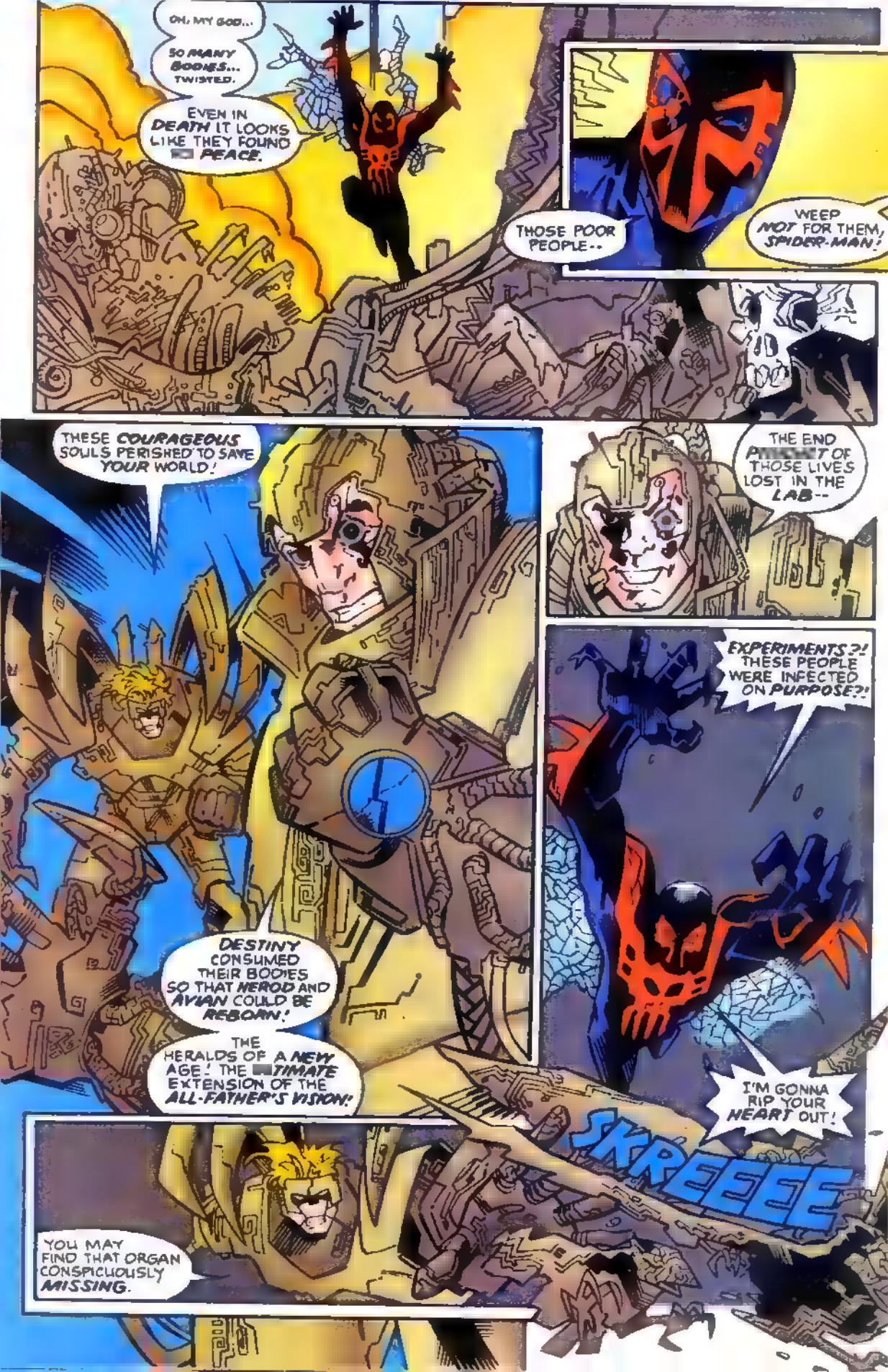

HRRRAR!
BOOM
ACES! HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO NAIL ARMED AND HIDEOUS--
--WITH THIS DAMPENING COLLAR..
ON?
THE SIGNAL'S BEEN CUT! THE MUTANT MASS MASTER HAS HIS JUICE BACK.
NOW I CAN SUPER-SIZE MYSELF AND POUND THIS PUNK!
Err?
RIGHTEOUS!
WOOOOOF!
HEY, FUGLY, STOP THE VIOLENCE--
--SO WE CAN HAVE A MEETING OF THE MINDS!
BONK
POW
CRACK
SMASH
ZOUNDS...


BLOOD! BLOOD!
GOOD SHOW, LAD...NOW FINISH THE JOB!
NO WAY, SPUD. I DON'T [redacted] DEATH.
YOU DO NOW.
PSYCHOW
NO!
ONE LIVES, ONE DIES! THE GAUNTLET ROLLS ON!
AARRGHH!
COLLAR BACK ONLINE?
CHECK.
SHOCKIN' SONS OF---!!! AS SOON AS I FIND WULFF, I SWEAR WE'RE GONNA SMOKE YOU SO FAST--
THAT'LL HAVE TO BE A SOLO GIG, UPCHUCK..
--'CAUSE OL' WULFFIE'S BACK IN THE FOLD.
"HE'S GETTING BACK TO HIS ROOTS--
Squeak!
"--WITH THOSE WHO KNOW HIM FOR WHAT HE IS."
KRUNCH!

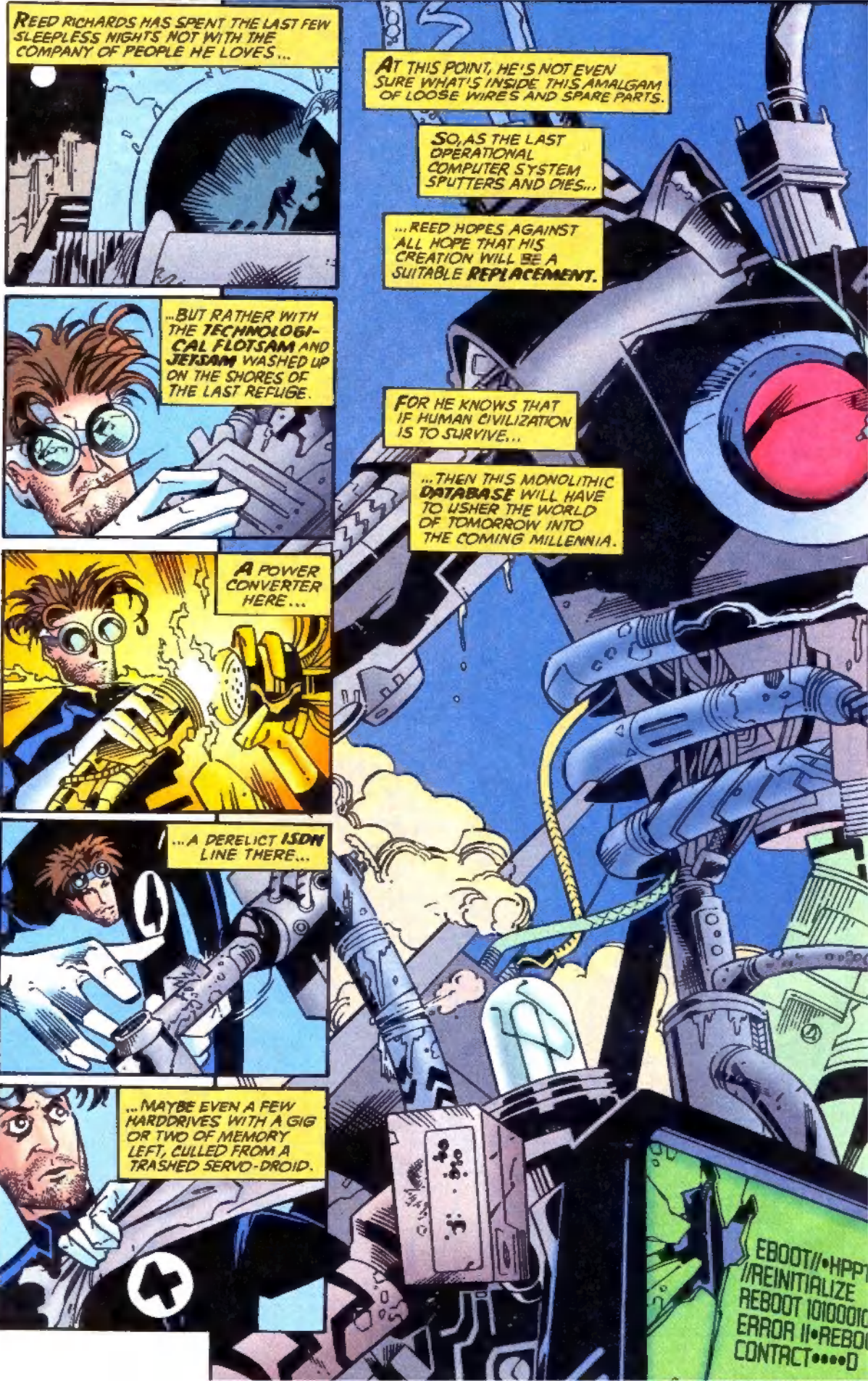
LATER...
CAN'T SLEEP.
BEING ON MARS JUST TOO WEIRD.. Eh?
TWILIGHT?
SITTING OUTSIDE AT THIS HOUR'S NOT A GOOD IDEA, GIRL.
NEITHER IS BLASTING OFF INTO SPACE, DR. ISAACS--
--BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME EITHER.
YOU MISS EARTH, UH?
I MISS A FRIEND.
AND I REALLY MISS MY FAMILY--ESPECIALLY MY SON.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE OR NOT...
TWI--?
THAT'S MY CUE--LATER, KID.
YOU OKAY, BABE?
HASN'T IT DAWNED ON YOU, SMITH?
CLARION'S GONE--
--AND HE'S NEVER COMING BACK!


AND WE MAY NEVER SEE THE REST OF X-NATION, EITHER.
HAYES SACRIFICED HIS LIFE SO YOU AND I COULD BE TOGETHER.
DOESN'T MUCH SOUND LIKE YOU WANT THAT...
I JUST NEED SOME TIME...
FINE. TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU WANT.
Oh, Man... DID WE JUST HAVE OUR FIRST FIGHT?
...
MAYBE SHE'S GOT A POINT.
SHE AND CLARION WERE FRIENDS BEFORE I EVER SHOWED UP.
I PROBABLY SHOULD APOLOGIZE--
MARS BLOCK 7
I'M SORRY, HON, I-- TWILIGHT???
HOLY SHOCK!
SHE'S GONE!

THE FATHERLAND, NIGHTFALL...
I'VE GOT TO FIND THOSE KIDS, NO MATTER WHAT XINA AND THE MIGHTY ALL-FATHER THINK!
Whoa! THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE A SHOCKING [redacted] ZONE THAN A MEDICAL QUARANTINE!
THE ALL-FATHER IS SURE A CONTROL FREAK! NOTHING'S GETTING IN THERE--
--NOTHING THAT CAN'T DO THIS!
HA! RENT-A-WRECKS...
SUBJECT HAS ENTERED THE THEATER OF OPERATIONS, MY LIEGE.
RECKLESS.


OH, MY GOD...
SO MANY BODIES... TWISTED.
EVEN IN DEATH IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND [redacted] PEACE.
THOSE POOR PEOPLE--
WEEP NOT FOR THEM, SPIDER-MAN!
THESE COURAGEOUS SOULS PERISHED TO SAVE YOUR WORLD!
THE END [redacted] OF THOSE LIVES LOST IN THE LAB--
EXPERIMENTS?! THESE PEOPLE WERE INFECTED ON PURPOSE?!
DESTINY CONSUMED THEIR BODIES SO THAT HEROD AND AVIAN COULD BE REBORN!
THE HERALDS OF A NEW AGE! THE [redacted]TIMATE EXTENSION OF THE ALL-FATHER'S VISION!
I'M GONNA RIP YOUR HEART OUT!
SKREEEE
YOU MAY FIND THAT ORGAN CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING.

SURP
RIPP
IF THERE'S NOTHING LEFT IN YOUR SHELL--
SOMEHOW, MR. O'HARA, I THINK YOU WOULD DO BETTER SIMPLY TO KNEEL--
...THEN I'M SURE THAT THE ALL-FATHER WILL OBLIGE ME...
WHAM
--AND BEG THE ALL-FATHER FOR MERCY.
...AFTER I GRAB HIM BY THE THROAT...
THOK
DOOM!
... AND SHOVE EVERY SQUARE INCH OF HIS VISION UP HIS--


REED RICHARDS HAS SPENT THE LAST FEW SLEEPLESS NIGHTS NOT WITH THE COMPANY OF PEOPLE HE LOVES...
AT THIS POINT, HE'S NOT EVEN SURE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS AMALGAM OF LOOSE WIRES AND SPARE PARTS.
SO, AS THE LAST OPERATIONAL COMPUTER SYSTEM SPUTTERS AND DIES...
...REED HOPES AGAINST ALL HOPE THAT HIS CREATION WILL BE A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT.
...BUT RATHER WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL FLOTSAM AND JETSAM WASHED UP ON THE SHORES OF THE LAST REFUGE.
FOR HE KNOWS THAT IF HUMAN CIVILIZATION IS TO SURVIVE...
...THEN THIS MONOLITHIC DATABASE WILL HAVE TO USHER THE WORLD OF TOMORROW INTO THE COMING MILLENNIA.
A POWER CONVERTER HERE...
...A DERELICT ISDN LINE THERE...
...MAYBE EVEN A FEW HARDDRIVES WITH A GIG OR TWO OF MEMORY LEFT, CULLED FROM A TRASHED SERVO-DROID.
EBOOT//•HPPT
//REINITIALIZE
REBOOT 1010001
ERROR II•REBO
CONTACT••••D

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT HE HOPES...
THERE--IT'S FINISHED.
FINALLY...
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA NAME HIM?
A NAME?
I HADN'T REALLY GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT.
YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE HIM A NAME.
HE'S, LIKE, YOUR SON.
MY--FRANKLIN...?
...MY FAMILY!
FATHER?
UH-OH..

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EBOOT//•HIPPT•
//REINITIALIZE
REBOOT 1010□0100
ERROR 11•REBOOT
CONTACT••••□

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MY-- **FRANKLIN...?**

...MY FAMILY!

FATHER?

Uh-Oh...

NUEVA YORK...
HE'S NOT COMING, SIS.
HE'LL BE HERE, JOHNNY.
BEFORE OR AFTER THE STRAIN OF JAMMING AN INVISIBLE BARRIER INTO THE PORTAL KILLS YOU?
JUST NEED-- Unnh!-- A FEW MORE MINUTES...
YOU'RE TEARING YOURSELF APART! LET GO!
NO, JOHNNY-- I WON'T GIVE UP ON HIM!
NOT NOW-- NOT EVER-- Huh?!
SUSAN-- YOU'VE GOT TO RELEASE THE PORTAL!
WE ONLY HAVE A COUPLE OF SECONDS MORE!
YOU KNOW, WE MAY NEVER RETURN TO OUR OWN TIME ZONE...
YES, WE WILL, DARLING-- SOMEHOW-- SOMEDAY--
THEN WHAT DO YOU SAY, OLD FRIENDS?
ONCE MORE INTO THE UNKNOWN!!!
THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES NEXT MONTH IN
2099
WORLD OF TOMORROW